



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 20, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	One Year Pilot Program for Yard Maintenance Related By-laws in the McMaster Neighbourhoods (PED16260(a)) (Ward 1) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 1
PREPARED BY:	Kelly Barnett (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1344
SUBMITTED BY:	Ken Leendertse Director, Licensing and By-law Services Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

City Council, at its meeting held on December 14, 2016 approved the following Motion:

- “(a) That staff be directed to expand the current Mohawk College Co-op Student program by hiring two additional students for enforcement of the one year pilot program for yard maintenance related by-laws in the McMaster neighbourhoods, based on full cost recovery through Fee for Inspection charges for non-compliant properties;
- (b) That two required vehicles, for use by the Mohawk College Co-op Students to enforce yard maintenance related by-laws in the McMaster neighbourhoods, to be funded from Capital Reinvestment Reserves (Area Rating) at an estimated one-time cost of \$50,000 (\$25,000 each), be approved;
- (c) That, as part of the one year pilot program for enforcement of yard maintenance related bylaws in the McMaster neighbourhoods, the Mohawk College Co-op Students be directed to collect baseline data in order to assist in determining adequate, permanent yard maintenance by-law enforcement resource requirements for the McMaster neighbourhoods;

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- (d) That one Parking Control Officer be redeployed to proactively address parking issues in the McMaster neighbourhoods; and, (e) That staff be directed to report back to the Planning Committee before the end of the 12 month pilot program for enforcement of yard maintenance related by-laws in the McMaster neighbourhoods, with the results of the pilot and recommendations for permanent by-law enforcement resource requirements for the McMaster neighbourhoods;
- (e) That staff be directed to report back to the Planning Committee before the end of the 12 month pilot program for enforcement of yard maintenance related by-laws in the McMaster neighbourhoods, with the results of the pilot and recommendations for permanent by-law enforcement resource requirements for the McMaster neighbourhoods.”

This Report provides the results of the 12 month pilot program.

Information:

Pilot Program Efforts and Results

Two Mohawk College Co-op Students were hired and started on January 9, 2017. After extensive training with Municipal Law Enforcement Officers they began working as Student Officers in various neighbourhoods that surround McMaster University. Initially they concentrated on being visible in the community, building relationships with property owners and occupants and providing education on by-laws and violations which continued for the duration of the program. The Student Officers worked with McMaster University’s Student Community Support Network on by-law educational initiatives by participating in student information sessions and appearing in an educational video.

Student Officers reactively and proactively investigated properties and enforced yard maintenance related by-law violations. The following is a summary of the types of by-law violations and the enforcement results.

Violation	Orders Issued Term 1	Orders Issued Term 2	Orders Issued Term 3	Total
Long Grass / Weeds	NA	211	15	226
Garbage / Debris	129	82	109	320
Long Grass / Weeds & Garbage / Debris	NA	90	19	109
Snow and Ice	88	NA	67	155
Improper Storage of Waste Collection Containers	91	2	31	124
Bulk Items at Curb	18	25	39	82

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Violation	Orders Issued Term 1	Orders Issued Term 2	Orders Issued Term 3	Total
Total Orders Issued	219	435	280	934
Voluntary Compliance Obtained	186 (84%)	332 (76%)	176 (63%)	694 (74%)
Fee For Inspection Charges for Non-Compliant Properties	\$15,230	\$34,664	\$13,049	\$62,943

Student Officers' combined salaries totalled \$48,608 and Fee for Inspection charges for non-compliant properties totalled \$62,943 for the 12 month pilot program making it a full cost recovery program. However, staff will have to continually monitor as it may not continue to be full cost recovery should our main goal of compliance continue to improve and / or violations decrease in the areas around McMaster University. The actions of Student Officers issuing Orders provided an average voluntary compliance rate of 74%. Many of the violations would never have been reported and / or resolved without the proactive enforcement done by Student Officers.

To address parking concerns, Parking Control Officers utilized proactive enforcement as well as responded to specific complaints. From January 1, 2017 until December 31, 2017 a total of 9,260 Parking Penalty Notices were issued (proactive and reactive enforcement) with a value of \$293,932 as well as 717 complaints were addressed. Parking Control Officers are continuing with this enforcement strategy in 2018.

An Information Update, attached as Appendix "A" to this Report, was sent to Mayor and Members of City Council on September 26, 2017 which provided an early update on the effectiveness of the pilot project from January 9, 2017 to August 31, 2017.

Subsequently City Council, at its meeting held on October 11, 2017 approved Item 9.2 of Planning Committee Report 17-016 which directed staff to expand the program based on early results by hiring two additional Mohawk College Co-op Students and to make the program permanent. Four Mohawk College Co-op Students started on January 15, 2018.

The item respecting the 12 month pilot program for enforcement of yard maintenance related by-laws in the McMaster neighbourhoods be identified as complete and removed from the Planning Committee Outstanding Business List.

Appendices and Schedules

Appendix "A": Information Update - September 26, 2017

KL/KB/st